

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A communication device capable of transmitting content to another communication device, comprising:

determining means for determining whether said another communication device has a function for restricting redistribution of content according to redistribution restriction information whereby the another communication device prevents transmitting the content, which was transmitted from the communication device, to a third communication device based on said redistribution restriction information; and

transmitting means for transmitting said content to which said redistribution restriction information is appended when it is determined by said determining means that said another communication device to which said content is to be transmitted is provided with a function for restricting redistribution of said content.

2. (Previously Presented) A communication device capable of transmitting content to another communication device, comprising:

determining means for determining whether said another communication device has a function for restricting redistribution of content to which redistribution restriction information is appended; and

transmitting means for transmitting said content to which said restriction information is appended when it is determined by said determining means that said another communication device to which said content is to be transmitted is provided with a function for restricting redistribution of said content,

wherein said determining means comprises:

acquisition means for acquiring first identification information from said another communication device for identifying whether said another communication device has said function for restricting redistribution of said content; and

memory storage means for storing second identification information for identifying communication devices having said function for restricting redistribution of said content,

wherein said determining means determines whether said first identification information acquired by said acquisition means corresponds to any of second identification information stored in said memory storage means, and decides that said another communication device has said function for restricting redistribution of said content when it is determined that said first identification information acquired by said acquisition means corresponds to any of second identification information stored in said memory storage means.

3. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 1, further comprising: redistribution restriction information appending means for appending said redistribution restriction information to said content in response to a user instruction, wherein said transmitting means transmits to said another communication device said content to which said redistribution restriction information is appended by said redistribution restriction information appending means.

4. (Previously Presented) A transmission restriction method for use in a communication device capable of transmitting content to another communication device, comprising:

detecting an instruction for transmitting said content to said another communication device where said content is appended with redistribution restriction information instructing said another communication device to restrict output of said content to an external device;

detecting, after detecting an instruction for transmitting said content, that said another communication device has a redistribution restriction function for restricting output of said content to an external device according to said redistribution restriction information whereby said another communication device prevents transmitting the content, which was transmitted from the communication device, to the external device according to said redistribution restriction information; and

transmitting, after detecting that said another communication device has a redistribution restriction function, said content to said another communication device.

5. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 1, wherein said redistribution restriction information comprises information sent from the another communication device to the communication device.

6. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 5, wherein said redistribution restriction information comprises identification information of the another communication device.

7. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 1, further comprising message transmitting means for transmitting a message to said another communication device indicating that the content is not being distributed when it is determined by said determining means that said another communication device to which said content is to be transmitted is not provided with the function for restricting redistribution of said content.

8. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 1, further comprising analysis means for analyzing whether the content is subject to restriction in distribution; and

wherein the determining means determines whether said another communication device has a function for restricting redistribution of content if the content is subject to restriction in distribution.

9. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 1, wherein the communication device comprises a server.

10. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 9, wherein the communication device comprises an electronic mail server.

11. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 10, wherein the content comprises at least a portion of an e-mail transmitted to the electronic mail server.

12. (Currently Amended) A communication device according to claim 10, wherein the another communication terminal comprises a destination communication terminal, the destination communication terminal identified in the e-mail a recipient of the e-mail, and wherein the destination communication terminal comprises the redistribution restriction information.

13. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 9, wherein the communication device comprises a content server.

14. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 1, further comprising:

inquiring means for sending an inquiry to the another communication device to inquire as to whether the another communication device restricts distribution of content; and

receiving means for receiving from the another communication device a response to the inquiry including the redistribution restriction information.

15. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 1, wherein the redistribution restriction information is included with a request from the another communication terminal for the content.

16. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 1, wherein the function for restricting redistribution comprises preventing distribution of the content to the third communication device.

17. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 1, wherein the function for restricting redistribution comprises limiting distribution of the content to external devices to a predetermined number of times.

18. (Previously Presented) A transmission restriction method according to claim 4, wherein said redistribution restriction information comprises information sent from the another communication device to the communication device.

19. (Previously Presented) A transmission restriction method according to claim 4, further comprising transmitting a message to said another communication device indicating that the content is not being distributed when it is detected that said another communication device to which said content is to be transmitted is not provided with the function for restricting redistribution of said content.

20. (Previously Presented) A transmission restriction method according to claim 4, further comprising analyzing whether the content is subject to restriction in distribution; and wherein the detecting that said another communication device has a redistribution restriction function is performed if the content is subject to restriction in distribution.

21. (Previously Presented) A transmission restriction method according to claim 4, further comprising:

sending an inquiry to the another communication device to inquire as to whether the another communication device restricts distribution of content; and

receiving from the another communication device a response to the inquiry including the redistribution restriction information.

22. (Previously Presented) A transmission restriction method according to claim 4, wherein the function for restricting redistribution comprises preventing distribution of the content to the third communication device.

23. (Previously Presented) A transmission restriction method according to claim 4, wherein the function for restricting redistribution comprises limiting distribution of the content to external devices to a predetermined number of times.

24. (Previously Presented) A transmission restriction method for use in a communication device capable of transmitting content to another communication device, comprising:

determining whether said another communication device has a function for restricting redistribution of content to which redistribution restriction information is appended; and

transmitting said content to which said restriction information is appended when it is determined that said another communication device to which said content is to be transmitted is provided with a function for restricting redistribution of said content,

wherein determining comprises:

acquiring first identification information from said another communication device for identifying whether said another communication device has said function for restricting redistribution of said content; and

storing second identification information for identifying communication devices having said function for restricting redistribution of said content,

wherein determining whether said another communication device has a function for restricting redistribution of content to which redistribution restriction information is appended comprises determining whether said acquired first identification information corresponds to any of the stored second identification information, and deciding that said another communication device has said function for restricting redistribution of said content when it is determined that said acquired first identification information corresponds to any of the stored second identification information.